

SAN MATEO COUNTY POLICE CHIEFS' AND SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION ENDORSES H.R. 1428

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from Mr. John Stangl, Police Chief of the City of San Mateo, California, and the President of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association, informing me that "without reservation, the membership of the San Mateo County Policy Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association voted to endorse and support H.R. 1428, the David Chetcuti Firearm Modification Act."

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1428, which I introduced earlier this year, would close the existing loophole which permits felons to have access to firearm components which they can use to assemble assault weapons. My legislation is simple and does not require any additional law enforcement effort than currently law requires. Quite simply, this legislation would extend the provisions of existing gun control legislation to those components which criminals can and do use to make assault weapons.

H.R. 1428 is called the David Chetcuti Firearm Modification Act. Mr. Speaker, in honor and in recognition of Officer Chetcuti who was killed one year ago by a felon who legally could not purchase a gun, but who was able to purchase a series of firearm components which he then used to assemble the kind of gun that he could not purchase.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I ask that the letter of Police Chief John Stangl be placed in the RECORD.

SAN MATEO COUNTY POLICE CHIEFS' AND SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION,

San Mateo, CA, May 6, 1999.

Congressman TOM LANTOS,
San Mateo, CA.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LANTOS: Without reservation, the membership of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs' and Sheriff Association voted to endorse and support H.R. 1428, the David Chetcuti Firearm Modification Act. In its unanimous decision, the association recognized the need to extend firearm laws to gun components and restrict the manner in which they can be acquired.

The use of firearms to resolve conflict or perform an illegal act has become a daily part of our lives. While it can be debated that no amount of legislation will eliminate this tragic reality, it does not make sense to provide an open market for high powered, multi round weapons.

It is obvious that the existing law must be amended to provide the protection to society that was originally intended. We thank you for your efforts and appreciate having the opportunity to work with you.

Respectfully,

JOHN STANGL,

Police Chief, City of
San Mateo, Presi-
dent, San Mateo
County Police
Chiefs' And Sher-
iff's Association.

HONORING MR. RICHARD LANDIS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, It is a great honor for me to rise before my colleagues today and pay tribute to Mr. Richard Landis, of Davison, Michigan, who has received the American Ambulance Association's 1999 "Star of Life" award for his outstanding service as an Emergency Medical Services professional.

The remarkable thing about individuals who serve as emergency medical responders is that they are always on duty. No matter where they are or what they are doing—they may be called upon to assist another person. Their ability to be swift and precise at that moment is of utmost importance; it can be the difference between life or death.

Mr. Landis was in just such a situation while spending a leisurely afternoon at the Silverdome. When another individual also at the Silverdome suffered from a sudden heart attack, Mr. Landis stepped in and saved that individual's life. Due to Mr. Landis's immediate desire to help and his quick thoughts and actions, that cardiac arrest victim is alive today.

This truly amazing event exemplifies the characteristics of Mr. Landis. Not only is he a talented medical professional, but he also brings courage and compassion to his work. His colleagues have noted that they frequently turn to him for advice and support, and they can count on him for his kind and positive attitude.

Since this is Emergency Medical Services week, it is an appropriate time for all of us to think about the valuable role of EMS workers in our communities. I am grateful to have the opportunity to recognize the service that Mr. Landis delivers to communities in my district. His actions are an inspiration for us all and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

WHITE HOUSE FELLOW PROGRAM

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Michelle Peluso, one of my constituents of New York City, New York for serving as a distinguished 1998–99 White House Fellow.

Established in 1965, the White House Fellowship Program honors outstanding citizens across the United States who demonstrate excellence in community service, leadership, academic initiative and professional achievement. It is the Nation's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership development. For more than three decades, White House fellows have been chosen on the merit of remarkable achievement early in their career. Each year, 500–800 applicants compete nationwide for 11–19 fellowships.

Ms. Peluso graduated summa cum laude from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, receiving her bachelor's degree in economics. As an undergraduate, she led volunteer programs in West Philadelphia, including a mentoring program, a campus com-

munity service group and a volunteer initiative at the Ronald McDonald House. Ms. Peluso received a master's degree in philosophy, politics and economics from Pembroke College at Oxford. Hired as a management consultant with the Boston Consulting Group in New York, she completed a one-year project to define the next frontier in health care and then traveled worldwide to present her ideas to members of the firm's global health care practice area. She founded A New Generation for Peace, a non-profit group that brought together 350 youths from 50 countries for seminars on global issues. Additionally, Ms. Peluso is a member of the board of directors of Christa House, which builds homes and provides care for end-stage aids patients.

As a White House fellow assigned to the U.S. Department of Labor, Ms. Peluso—has co-managed the Vice-President's summit on 21st Century Skills for 21st century jobs, where she was responsible for leading inter-agency steering committee meetings, writing speeches and working on new policy announcements. She also leads a team that addresses one of Labor Secretary Alexis Herman's top priorities, "out-of-school youth." In that capacity, Ms. Peluso is responsible for coordinating the Department's \$2.5 billion portfolio of programs.

She is also responsible for developing new partnerships and a public awareness campaign for the initiative. Further, Ms. Peluso manages the Secretary's dislocated workers initiative, which is the Secretary's number two priority. Her working involves leading a team of senior program managers, economists and public affairs specialists to ensure effective management of programs, develop new strategies for worker dislocation, and help coordinate grants to communities and businesses affected by dislocations.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding Michelle Peluso for her achievements. I wish to congratulate Ms. Peluso for her distinguished service to White House Fellowship Program.

INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report to my colleagues the actions of the House subcommittee on Military Personnel. Today I offered, and the subcommittee endorsed, an amendment that many of my colleagues will recognize as the Harman amendment.

I am proud to continue the good work of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman Jane Harman. Jane was one of my mentors. I am sure my colleagues on the subcommittee will join me in commending Jane's contribution to the quality of life for our military personnel and their families.

My amendment includes the identical language from the Harman amendment. It repeals a provision of the FY 1996 defense bill barring women serving overseas in the U.S. military from using their own funds to obtain legal abortion services in military hospitals. As the ranking woman Democrat on our Committee, I strongly feel that this policy must be overturned.